

BUSINESS INDICATORS

**AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

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INQUIRIES

- For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Jacki Grau on Canberra (02) 6207 0446 or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
December	21 December 1998
January	25 January 1999
February	22 February 1999
March	22 March 1999
April	19 April 1999
May	24 May 1999

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the October 1998 issue are: labour force, industrial disputes, wage and salary earners, housing and construction, housing finance, retail turnover, motor vehicle registrations, and consumer price index. The feature articles on pages 6–9 are on Retrenchment and Redundancy in the ACT and Retail Turnover in the ACT by Type of Retailing and Shopping Centre.

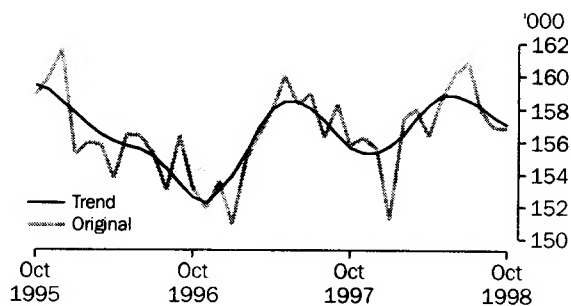
NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force	In October 1998, the trend unemployment rate for the ACT was 6.7%, the same as the rate for the previous month. This is the lowest rate since November 1991. Trend employment decreased 0.3% (to 157,000 persons) and the trend participation rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 71.4% from the previous period. Nationally, trend employment increased by 0.2% from the previous period and the trend unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percentage points to 7.9%.
Industrial disputes	For the 12 months ended July 1998 there were 31 working days lost per thousand employees in the ACT compared to a figure of 79 days nationally. In comparison with the previous year, there was a decrease of 22.5% for the ACT and an increase of 5.3% nationally in the number of working days lost per thousand employees.
Wage and salary earners	The trend number of wage and salary earners reported by Government agencies and private businesses located in the ACT increased by 0.1% (or 200 persons) to 138,000 in the period February 1998 to May 1998. This compares to a national increase of 0.8% (or 57,100 persons). The proportion of private sector wage and salary earners in the ACT is around 50%. These figures exclude self-employed persons in jobs located in the private sector.
Housing and construction	<p>The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT decreased by 3.2% to 182 dwelling units in September 1998. Nationally the trend number of dwelling units approved decreased by 2.4% to 12,444 dwelling units.</p> <p>The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$34.3 million in September 1998, an increase of \$4.8 million (16.3%) from the previous month and \$25.3 million (281.1%) higher than September 1997. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 35.9% from the previous month and was 10.5% lower than September 1997.</p>

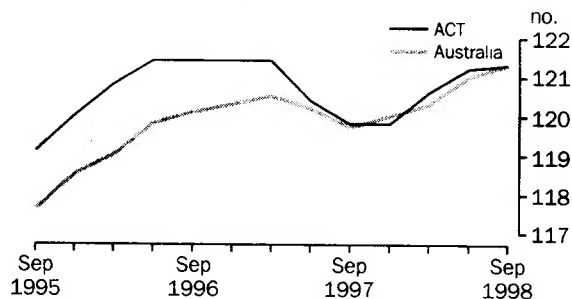
Housing finance	The trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) in the ACT during September 1998 increased to 732 dwellings, a rise of 3.0% on the previous month. The trend estimate for the value of commitments in the ACT was \$82 million, an increase of \$3 million on the previous month. Refinancing of existing dwellings comprised 16.1% of the total value of dwelling units financed in September 1998 which is the same level as the previous month. Nationally, the trend number of dwelling units financed (including refinancing) during September 1998 was 37,785 which was a decrease of 2.0% on the previous month, while the trend estimate for the value of commitments decreased to \$4,520 million (-1.1%) on the previous month.
Retail turnover	The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for September 1998 was \$224.1million, up 0.7% on the previous month's figure and up 5.2% on twelve months ago. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.5% on the previous month and was up 4.6% on a year ago.
Motor vehicle registrations	The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in September 1998 was 1,322, down 3.5% on the previous month, and down 0.2% on September 1997. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in September 1998 recorded a 0.7% decrease on the previous month, but up 10.5% on September 1997.
Consumer price index	The ACT experienced a small increase of 0.1% in the All Groups CPI for the September quarter 1998. This compares with the national figure of a 0.2% increase. The ACT annual CPI rate to September quarter 1998 recorded an increase of 1.3%, the same as the annual CPI for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

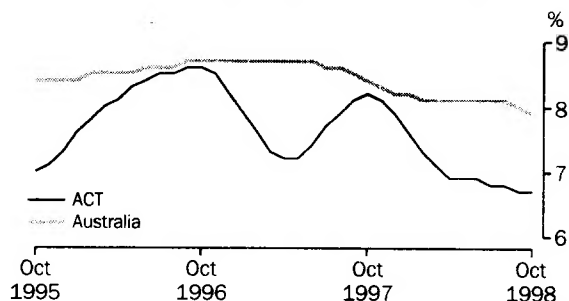
LABOUR FORCE—EMPLOYMENT



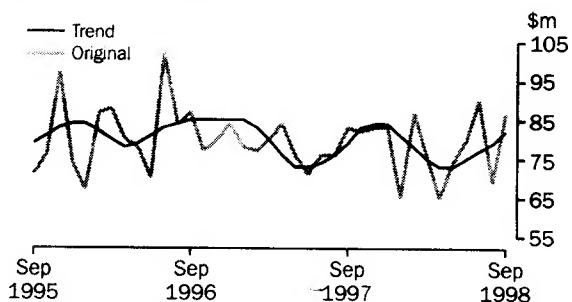
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



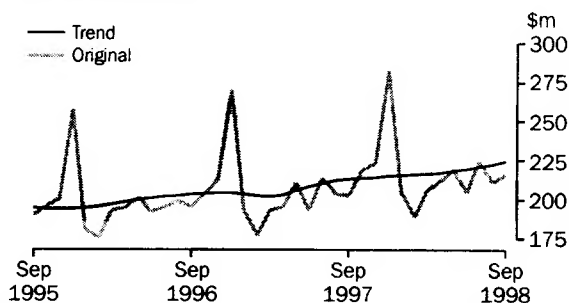
LABOUR FORCE—TREND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



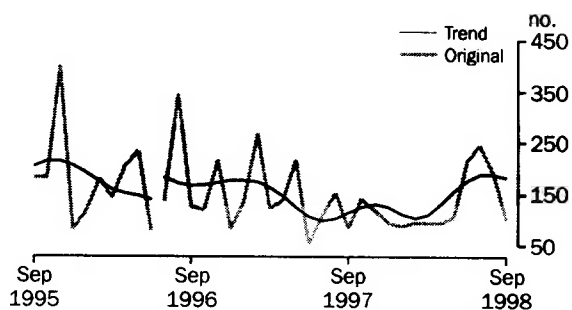
HOUSING FINANCE



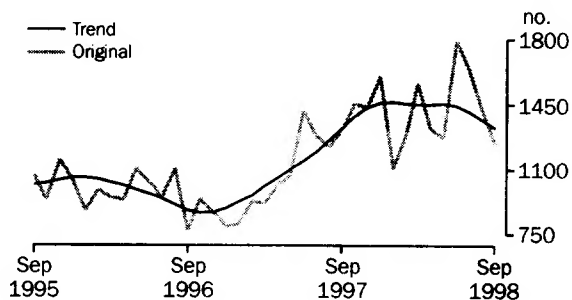
RETAIL TURNOVER



BUILDING APPROVAL—DWELLING UNITS APPROVED



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



Note: For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996 and a trend break has been included in the graph.

In July 1997, the Retrenchment and Redundancy Survey found that an estimated 175,900 people aged 18–64 residing in the ACT had held a job in the three years to 30 June 1997. During this three year period, 13,102 (7.4%) had been retrenched or made redundant on one or more occasions. Of those that had been retrenched, 7,200 (55%) were in employment at the end of the period, July 1997. For Australia, the proportion that were working at July 1997 was also 55%.

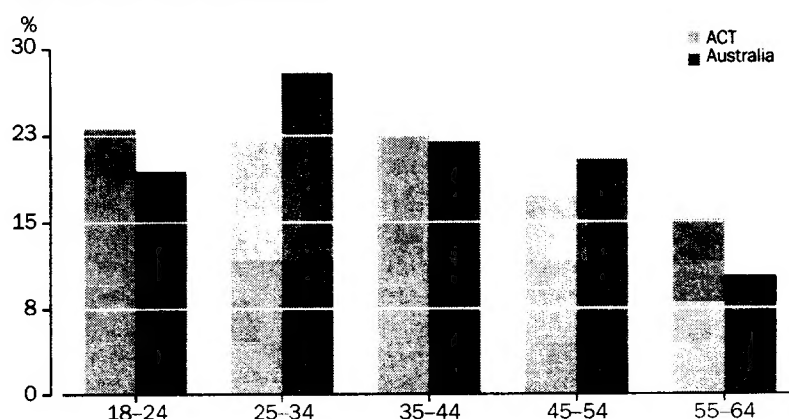
In the Retrenchment and Redundancy Survey no distinction was made between the terms 'retrenched' and 'redundant'. The term 'retrenched' is used to describe people who responded that they were either retrenched or made redundant. Where a person was retrenched from more than one job in the reference period, characteristics of the job from which retrenched were only collected for the respondent's most recent retrenchment.

The number of people who had been retrenched as a proportion of those who had held a job in the reference period was 7.4%. This proportion is similar to the national average of 7.3%. There were 92,700 males who had worked during the reference period, with 9.1% having been retrenched on one or more occasions. There were 83,200 females who had worked during the reference period, with 5.6% having been retrenched on one or more occasions.

AGE AND SEX

For males, the age group with the largest number of retrenchments was the 18–24 age group (23.1% of male retrenchments). Nationally, males aged 25–34 years were most likely to be retrenched (27.9% of male retrenchments). In comparison, the age group with the largest number of female retrenchments was the 35–44 age group (26% of female retrenchments). Nationally, retrenched females tended to be younger than in the ACT, aged 25 to 34 years (28% of female retrenchments).

AGE OF RETRENCHED PERSON



PERMANENT, CASUAL AND FULL-TIME WORK

Of the 4,634 females who were retrenched during the period, 69.3% had been in permanent employment, while the remaining 30.7% had been in casual employment. Of the 8,468 males who were retrenched during the period, 77.0% had been in permanent employment, while the remaining 23% had been in casual employment. Proportionally, 77% of retrenched females lost full-time work, compared to 89% of retrenched males.

INDUSTRY

In the ACT, the largest numbers of workers were retrenched from jobs in the following industries:

- Government administration and defence—3,972 (30.3% of all retrenched employees);
- Construction—1,476 (11.3%); and
- Retail trade—1,425 (10.8%).

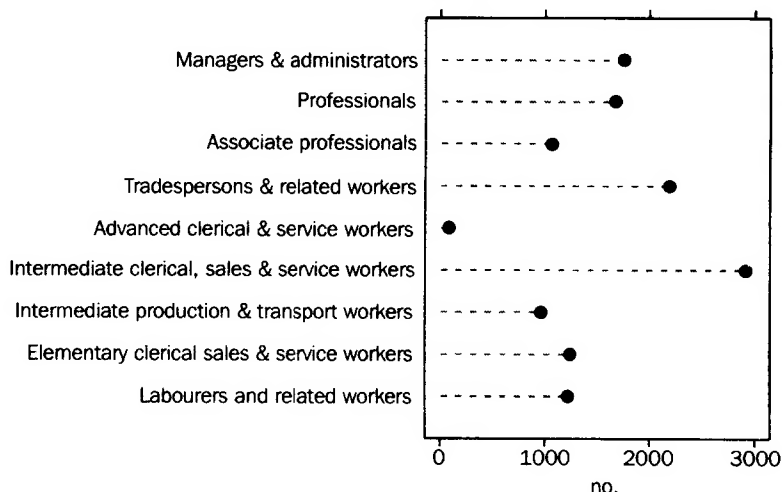
SECTOR

In the ACT 45% of retrenched workers were from the public sector, compared to 19% nationally. The proportion of public sector workers in the ACT is 47%, more than double the national proportion of 22% of all employees.

OCCUPATION

The largest numbers of retrenchments in the ACT occurred for Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (2,914 or 22% of all retrenched workers), Tradespersons and related workers (2,186 or 17%), and Managers and administrators 1,750 or 13%). For males, the most common occupations affected were Tradespersons and related workers (2,087 or 25% of all retrenched males) and Managers and administrators (1,483 or 18%). In contrast, the occupation most significantly affected for females was Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (1,785 or 39% of all retrenched females).

OCCUPATION OF JOB FROM WHICH RETRENCHED



Reason for retrenchment and prior notice

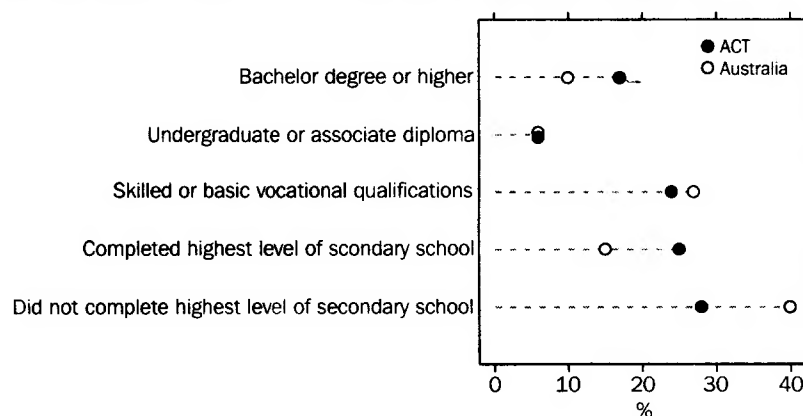
The survey showed that more than half (54%) of those retrenched in the ACT indicated the main reason for retrenchment was 'Not enough work/job cuts'. The second major reason was 'other' (20%) which includes reasons, such as age and own ill-health or injury. Other reasons were: businesses closing, other business problems, change of management, change in the nature of the job/new technology, and ill health or physical disability. This distribution was similar for both males and females.

Prior notice of less than one week was given to 20% of those retrenched, the majority of retrenched workers (67%) received less than five weeks notice. The most often reported notice periods were '1 and under 5 weeks' (46%), and '13 weeks or more' (17%).

Who was retrenched?

Almost three-quarters (73%) of persons who had been retrenched were family members. Persons in a married or defacto relationship represented 59% of retrenched workers and of these, just over half (54%) had dependents.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RETRENCHED WORKERS IN THE ACT



RETAIL TURNOVER IN THE ACT BY TYPE OF RETAILING AND SHOPPING CENTRE

The estimates of retail business turnover by type of retailing and shopping centre in the ACT contained in this article have been compiled from the monthly ABS Retail Trade Survey. Care should be taken in interpreting these details as some of the information relating to multi-location businesses has been estimated using a variety of indicators (eg number of employees, floor area, etc).

Total retail turnover in the ACT increased by 5.7% in 1997-98. Of the \$2,582 million turnover, 52% was through town centres, 25% through group centres, 13% through local centres and 11% through other centres.

In 1997-98, food retailing in the ACT comprised around 38% (\$973 million) of total retail turnover. Food retailing was carried out mainly through group centres (44% or \$432 million), town centres (38% or \$373 million) and local centres (12% or \$115 million). Food retailing increased by only 0.8% in 1997-98, which reflects the static population growth over this period in the ACT. However there were increases in food retailing through group and town centres (up 8.3% and 3.4% respectively) but declines through local and other centres (down 14.1% and 26.2% respectively).

Other retailing in the ACT comprised around 62% (\$1,610 million) of total retail turnover in 1997-98. The greatest proportion of other retailing was mainly carried out through town centres (60% or \$972 million), with the other three types of centres each having much the same proportion (around 13% or \$212 million). Other retailing increased by 9.0% in 1997-98, with most of this coming from increases in town and local centres (up 11.8% and 11.5% respectively).

RETAIL TURNOVER BY TYPE OF SHOPPING CENTRE

Type of Centre	Food retailing		Other retailing		Total	
	\$m	%	\$m	%	\$m	%
1996-97						
Town centre	360.4	37.4	869.5	58.9	1 230.1	50.4
Group centre	398.1	41.2	199.8	13.5	597.9	24.5
Local centre	133.9	13.9	196.0	13.3	329.9	13.5
Other centre	72.9	7.6	211.4	14.3	284.3	11.6
Total	965.5	100.0	1 476.7	100.0	2 442.2	100.0
1997-98						
Town centre	372.6	38.3	972.4	60.4	1 345.0	52.1
Group centre	431.5	44.4	200.1	12.4	631.6	24.5
Local centre	115.0	11.8	218.5	13.6	333.5	12.9
Other centre	53.8	5.5	218.5	13.6	272.4	10.6
Total	972.9	100.0	1 609.5	100.0	2 582.4	100.0

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BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES

	ACT	Aust.
<i>Period</i>	%	%
Short-term		
Jun qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1997	0.6	3.0
Dec qtr 1997-Mar qtr 1998	-1.1	-0.3
Mar qtr 1998-Jun qtr 1998	-0.1	1.7
Jun qtr 1998-Sep qtr 1998	2.7	1.1
Sep qtr 1998-Dec qtr 1998	3.5	1.5
Medium-term		
Jun qtr 1997-Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Sep qtr 1997-Sep qtr 1998	1.2	3.9
Dec qtr 1997-Dec qtr 1998	2.9	3.0
Mar qtr 1998-Mar qtr 1999	2.6	2.6
Jun qtr 1998-Jun qtr 1999	6.9	2.7
Sep qtr 1998-Sep qtr 1999	7.5	2.8

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	% change from		Latest figure	% change from	
			Previous period	Same period previous year		Previous period	Same period previous year
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION, Mar qtr 98	'000	309.2	0.1	-0.3	18 709.7	0.4	1.2
Natural increase	no.	473	-50.3	-35.0	30 868	-3.1	-8.8
Net migration	no.	-282	-76.3	-137.8	47 719	349.4	52.7
Total increase	no.	191	-180.3	-87.1	78 587	85.0	20.7
LABOUR FORCE, Oct 98							
Original Series							
Employed	'000	156.8	-0.1	0.6	8 690.2	-0.5	2.7
Unemployed	'000	10.2	-7.3	-22.1	685.6	-10.4	-6.9
Unemployment rate	%	6.1	-0.4	-1.6	7.3	-0.8	-0.7
Participation rate	%	70.9	-0.5	-0.9	63.2	-1.0	0.3
Long-term unemployed, Sep 98	no.	3 569	14.7	9.1	257 505	5.0	-3.8
Long-term unemployed as percentage of total unemployed		32.5	3.4	8.4	33.6	-0.1	-0.2
Trend series							
Employed	'000	157.0	-0.3	0.9	8 662.3	0.2	2.3
Unemployed	'000	11.2	-1.8	-19.4	748.1	-0.7	-4.0
Unemployment rate	%	6.7	—	-1.5	7.9	-0.1	-0.5
Participation rate	%	71.4	-0.4	-0.7	63.5	—	0.3
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, May 98							
Trend series							
Public Sector	'000	68.7	-1.0	1.9	1 460.0	0.1	-1.0
Private Sector	'000	69.3	1.2	-6.6	5 408.1	1.0	1.0
Total	'000	138.0	0.1	-2.5	6 868.1	0.8	0.6
JOB VACANCIES, Aug 98	'000	1.8	28.6	80.0	73.0	-0.4	5.3
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Jul 98							
Working days lost	'000	0.0	-100.0	-100.0	20.3	-71.5	-50.2
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended Jul 98)	no.	31.0	—	-22.5	79.0	-3.7	5.3
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Sep 98							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original Series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	9.0	28.6	50.0	753.0	8.2	2.2
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	2.0	—	-33.3	238.0	0.8	-7.8
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	55.0	31.0	22.2	3 555.0	1.1	-2.8
Re-financing	\$m	14.0	—	-6.7	765.0	1.6	-9.7
Total housing commitments	\$m	87.0	26.1	4.8	4 547.0	2.2	-2.3
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	83.0	13.7	1.2	4 345.0	-3.9	-5.0
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	732	3.0	0.5	37 785	-2.0	-5.8
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.0	3.8	3.8	4 520.0	-1.1	-0.1
BUILDING APPROVALS, Sep 98							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	101	-46.8	21.7	12 787	2.9	-2.2
Value of new residential	\$m	12.4	-42.6	-44.6	1 390.0	1.9	2.5
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.0	16.3	-2.0	262.4	12.6	2.5
Value of non-residential	\$m	34.3	16.3	281.1	932.2	-35.9	-10.5
Value of total building	\$m	51.8	-6.5	104.7	2 584.5	-15.3	-2.6
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	182	-3.2	59.6	12 444	-2.4	-0.1

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year	% change from		
					Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Jun qtr 98							
New houses	no.	237	-4.8	-29.3	26 207	9.7	21.9
Value of houses commenced	\$m	30.2	2.4	-23.7	3 034.4	14.1	28.1
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	87.8	-33.1	54.9	3 246.1	-8.3	21.0
Value of total commencements	\$m	135.9	-22.7	3.5	8 241.3	2.2	25.5
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Jun qtr 98		126.4	-0.6	-0.8	126.9	2.2	11.7
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Jun qtr 98)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	\$m	13.9	-44.2	52.7	2 560.4	-5.3	-11.9
Value of work done	\$m	12.6	-39.7	-10.6	2 901.1	1.0	23.2
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	12.2	24.5	-48.1	6 541.2	-0.5	8.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	30.3	31.2	25.2	1 982.5	28.1	4.3
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Sep qtr 98							
Food	(a)	127.6	0.6	3.8	124.7	1.3	3.2
Housing	(a)	93.8	0.4	-3.3	94.8	0.3	-1.1
Transportation	(a)	128.0	-0.9	-2.0	122.3	-0.4	-1.7
All groups	(a)	121.3	0.1	1.3	121.3	0.2	1.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May 98							
Original series							
Males	\$	825.7	0.4	8.2	714.5	-0.2	4.0
Females	\$	598.7	-2.0	6.2	468.3	-0.4	2.4
Persons	\$	715.6	-0.5	7.7	596.2	-0.2	3.2
Trend series							
Males	\$	829.8	2.1	7.6	717.8	0.7	4.0
Females	\$	602.8	0.5	5.6	468.7	0.2	2.4
Persons	\$	720.3	1.7	7.2	597.5	0.5	3.0
RETAIL TURNOVER, Sep 98							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	79.7	-0.4	3.9	4 598.5	0.3	6.4
Department stores	\$m	21.5	8.6	0.9	950.5	7.9	1.2
Hospitality and services	\$m	36.9	4.2	9.8	1 933.0	-1.7	7.1
All other retailing	\$m	78.0	2.9	10.2	3 792.6	3.3	4.0
Total	\$m	216.1	2.4	6.8	11 274.6	1.6	5.2
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	81.7	—	2.8	4 719.9	0.5	5.4
Department stores	\$m	25.2	0.4	3.7	1 041.0	0.5	4.0
Hospitality and services	\$m	35.6	0.3	8.2	1 997.7	0.8	7.2
All other retailing	\$m	81.6	1.7	6.9	3 870.8	0.3	2.6
Total	\$m	224.1	0.7	5.2	11 629.4	0.5	4.6

^a Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		Latest figure	Previous period	% change from Same period previous year	% change from		
					Latest figure	Previous period	Same period previous year
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Mar qtr 98							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	221.3	n.a	5.6	8 724.6	-3.7	3.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	22.3	n.a	7.2	881.1	n.a	3.1
Guest arrivals	'000	176.9	n.a	n.a	7 145.0	n.a	n.a
Guest nights	'000	363.7	n.a	n.a	15 175.0	n.a	n.a
Room occupancy rate (Jun qtr 98)	%	59.1	n.a	3.9	54.6	-5.9	-2.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Sep 98							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 238	-13.4	-5.9	65 238	1.4	4.4
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 180	-12.3	-7.5	66 519	2.6	6.1
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 322	-3.5	-0.2	68 491	-0.7	10.5
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, 1996-97(a)							
Original series (at average 1989-90 prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	4 981	3.6	—	269 954	2.4	—
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 744	-2.7	—	72 844	1.5	—
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	755	2.6	—	85 505	12.1	—
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	593	24.6	—	18 685	-5.6	—
Final demand	\$m	11 972	-0.4	—	446 989	3.6	—
Gross state product	\$m	8 813	0.6	—	450 575	3.0	—
Original series (at current prices)							
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	5 781	4.0	—	318 480	4.0	—
Government final consumption expenditure	\$m	7 011	0.6	—	86 421	3.6	—
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	804	-1.6	—	86 304	7.9	—
Government gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	440	-14.6	—	19 230	-5.2	—
Final demand	\$m	14 037	1.3	—	510 435	4.2	—
Gross state product	\$m	10845	5.0	—	516 306	4.9	—

(a) Quarterly state final demand details are released as a special data service (product no. 5206.0.40.001).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	'000	Mar qtr 98	6 329.8	4 648.4	3 450.5	1 485.4	1 821.6	471.3	190.5	309.2	18 709.7
LABOUR FORCE											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Oct 98	2 888.7	2 159.8	1 622.4	652.7	892.1	194.6	92.1	157.0	8 662.3
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Oct 98	7.2	8.0	9.0	9.8	7.1	10.8	3.8	6.7	7.9
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS											
Public sector (trend)	'000	May 98	472.6	313.8	278.2	117.3	146.7	41.1	21.7	68.7	1 460.0
Private sector (trend)	'000	May 98	1 910.7	1 425.4	910.3	381.4	549.2	115.8	46.0	69.3	5 408.1
Total public and private sector (trend)	'000	May 98	2 383.3	1 739.2	1 188.5	498.7	695.9	156.9	67.6	138.0	6 868.1
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)											
Gross state product at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	Yr 1996-97	152 378	118 338	74 768	31 094	50 665	8 910	4 945	4 981	269 954
Gross state product at current prices	\$m	Yr 1996-97	181 799	133 567	83 366	36 306	54 418	10 587	5 418	5 744	72 844
BUILDING APPROVALS											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Sep 98	4 010	3 325	2 818	742	1 413	139	239	101	12 787
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Sep 98	4 312	3 090	2 381	688	1 595	127	212	182	12 444
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Sep 98	311.5	302.2	152.1	46.9	63.8	8.7	12.6	34.3	932.2
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Sep 98	847.3	759.0	460.5	163.5	229.9	24.3	48.3	51.8	2 584.5
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Jun qtr 98	1 573.5	911.4	1 063.5	345.3	827.1	69.3	50.4	42.9	4 883.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May 98	748.2	719.6	694.1	682.1	731.8	689.5	746.2	847.4	725.9
RETAIL TRADE											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Sep 98	3 994.5	2 769.7	2 204.9	879.6	1 158.0	265.6	125.6	224.1	11 629.4
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION											
Room nights occupied	'000	Jun qtr 98	2 890.3	1 415.7	2 372.2	479.7	824.3	226.0	295.1	221.3	8 724.6
Room occupancy rate	%	Jun qtr 98	56.3	53.9	54.1	53.6	54.5	44.7	54.2	59.1	54.6
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS											
Trend	no.	Sep 98	23 645	17 152	12 848	4 589	6 924	1 352	659	1 322	68 491

	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX											
Food	(b)	Sep qtr 98	125.1	123.6	123.9	125.9	126.5	124.7	125.2	127.6	124.7
Housing	(b)	Sep qtr 98	102.5	85.3	101.0	91.2	89.6	95.6	113.9	93.8	94.8
Transportation	(b)	Sep qtr 98	123.6	121.0	120.9	121.8	122.6	120.4	120.7	128.0	122.3
All Groups	(b)	Sep qtr 98	121.9	120.4	122.5	123.0	119.6	122.8	122.1	121.3	121.3
Average retail prices (cents)											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sep qtr 98	116	135	119	127	135	126	122	115	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sep qtr 98	216	201	195	169	205	209	210	210	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sep qtr 98	1 164	1 048	1 070	1 109	1 053	1 031	1 209	1 162	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sep qtr 98	332	339	294	367	356	353	390	361	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sep qtr 98	108	111	114	62	130	72	108	120	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Sep qtr 98	662	608	617	570	583	608	615	591	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sep qtr 98	339	315	264	359	377	265	327	263	n.a.
Private motoring petrol											
Leaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 98	72.6	69.8	61.4	71.0	71.6	77.4	79.2	74.9	n.a.
Unleaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 98	70.3	67.6	59.2	68.6	69.4	75.4	77.2	72.7	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Mar qtr 98	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.7	0.1	0.4
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Oct 98	0.2	—	0.2	0.5	0.2	-0.1	1.1	-0.3	0.2
Unemployment rate (trend)	Oct 98	-0.1	-0.1	—	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	—	-0.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Public sector (trend)	May 98	—	0.7	-0.4	0.4	0.5	-0.2	-0.9	-1.0	0.1
Private sector (trend)	May 98	0.8	0.5	2.3	0.1	2.6	-0.2	-2.1	1.2	1.0
Total public and private sector (trend)	May 98	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	2.1	-0.2	-1.9	0.1	0.8
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
State final demand at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Yr 1996-97	2.8	2.6	5.2	0.8	3.3	0.2	4.6	3.6	2.4
State final demand at current prices (trend)	Yr 1996-97	6.2	4.2	5.7	1.0	4.2	2.7	7.3	-2.7	1.5
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved (original)	Sep 98	7.2	1.9	9.3	17.0	-18.6	7.8	51.3	-46.8	2.9
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Sep 98	-2.6	-1.9	-3.6	0.4	-2.9	0.8	1.4	-3.2	-2.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Sep 98	-48.0	-17.5	-48.8	-35.0	24.4	-35.1	-8.7	16.3	-35.9
Value of all buildings approved	Sep 98	-30.3	-5.8	-19.5	15.8	-10.2	-10.0	32.0	-6.5	-15.3
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	Jun qtr 98	17.9	16.3	15.4	13.7	-11.8	35.1	18.6	-2.5	10.5
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May 98	0.6	0.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.3	1.7	1.4	0.8
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Sep 98	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5
HOTELS, MOTELS & GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Jun qtr 98	-4.2	-7.7	3.0	-7.3	-5.5	-32.4	25.3	-8.9	-3.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Jun qtr 98	-3.5	-6.2	-0.2	-5.6	-4.0	-22.6	10.1	-5.7	-3.4
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Sep 98	0.3	-0.4	-0.8	-1.8	-2.4	-2.2	-3.5	-3.5	-0.7
	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Sep qtr 98	1.1	1.6	0.5	1.8	1.5	2.0	120.6	0.6	1.3
Housing	Sep qtr 98	1.2	-1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.1	1.5	0.4	0.3
Transportation	Sep qtr 98	-0.4	-0.8	-1.5	—	1.2	-0.1	-0.4	-0.9	-0.4
All Groups	Sep qtr 98	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 98	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	-1.6	0.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 98	2.4	6.3	1.6	4.3	2.0	13.6	0.5	4.5	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sep qtr 98	-3.2	1.6	2.5	-1.4	2.4	1.9	-3.0	3.4	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sep qtr 98	-3.8	0.9	1.0	2.8	—	6.3	1.0	2.6	n.a.
Potatoes	Sep qtr 98	4.9	2.8	-0.9	-18.4	2.4	-6.5	-7.7	8.1	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Sep qtr 98	8.0	-2.1	-3.0	-2.7	-5.8	-11.4	-3.3	-8.9	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sep qtr 98	—	3.3	1.5	1.4	-0.5	—	0.3	1.5	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Sep qtr 98	-1.2	-1.6	-4.7	-2.9	-3.9	-0.1	-2.8	-1.6	n.a.
Unleaded	Sep qtr 98	-1.4	-1.6	-4.7	-3.0	-4.1	-0.1	-2.9	-1.5	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in *Australian National Accounts, State Accounts* (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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